THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) The notices have been issued to several companies warning them that if they do not discharge their liabilities, the amounts would be recovered as arrears of land revenue through Collectors. Out of these companies, M/s. Pfizer and M/s. Abbett have gone to Court against the recovery notices.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) All efforts are being made to recover the due amount from the companies, as quickly as possible.

Justification for reducing the prices of Medicines

383. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 398 given in Rajya Sabha on the 26th March, 1992 and state:

(a) how Government arrive at the conclusion that adequate justification for reducing the prices of decontrolled formulations does not exist when there are no basis of intervention;

(b) how producers are persuaded to reduce prices in the overall interest of consumers when they are not able to get details in Form-6 and all other details required under DPCO, 1987;

(c) what are the details of Forms required to be submitted by Drug Units under DPCO, 1987 and how many companies have submitted such details each year during the last three years;

(d) whether it it a fact that wherever it suits the officials the prices of the formulations are not reduced and reductions are not made in these cases where the turn over is large; and

(e) what steps are being taken to lay down certain guidelines in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a), (b) and (e) In case of abnormal price increases which come to the notice, the companies are asked to give justification. The required details, if not already available, are called for and the producers are persuaded to bring the price to a reasonable level. Being price decontrolled, no limit on prices increase or MAPE charged has been announced. Monitoring is done on price increase on the basis of available data and internal guidelines to keep prices within reasonable limits.

(c) Companies are required to furnish information in the various forms given in the Fourth Schedule to the DPCO, 1987. Information being voluminous one, the time and labour involed in its collection and compilation will not be commensurate with the result likely to be achieved.

(d) No, Sir.

Prices of essential commodities

384. SHRI R. T. GOPALAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the prices of essential commodities including edible oils, sugar, vegetable, pulses, onion etc. in retail markets as on February 20, 1992;

(b) the measures proposed to counteract inflationary pressure on these commodities; and

(c) the results achieved as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) A Statement showing the retail prices of essential commodities at selected centres as on 20-2-1992 is given in Annexure. *See* Appnedix CLXIII, annexure No. 3)

(b) and (c) The Cabinet Committee on Prices under the Chairmanship of the Union Finance Minister reviews the supply and prices of essentjal commodities at regular intervals and takes appropriate action to correct the imbalances in the demand and supply. Towards this end, palmolein oil has been imported to supplement the overall supply of edible oils in the country. Efforts are also being made to augment